

January 19, 2011

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 1/19/2011
HB

Mister Chair and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is LeChelle Moore. I am nineteen years old and currently I reside at Florence Crittenton Home in Helena. I have two girls -- Brea who is three and KaeLynn who is almost two. I'm expecting another baby February 22nd. I am attending the Helena College of Technology for my four-year degree in business.

I have been in the Pathways To Success Program for almost three months now. I moved into Florence to get away from a seven-year abusive relationship. I was looking for some support being a single mother of two. At my age I wasn't sure if that was available, but Florence Crittenton opened their doors with loving arms. They have given me much support, not only by having support groups such as Loving Your Baby, Independent Living Skills, Parenting, and Relationships, but they also offer one on one counseling and money management sessions.

I am the kind of person who *wants* to be independent. I want to be able to support my family on my own -- not live off of the government. Right now I use the SNAP program for help with my grocery bills. Florence Crittenton staff are teaching me to stretch my family's food dollars and I'm learning about better nutrition for myself and my children. I'm learning how to budget the financial aid I have for college so I can pay my living expenses. *And* I've been able to save enough to buy a used car. My hope is that by educating myself so that I can have a good-paying job and someday even own a business of my own, that I will be able to *contribute* to society rather than relying on government assistance.

If it weren't for Florence Crittenton my children and I would be homeless. I definitely would not be able to continue my schooling, which I believe is the most important thing I can do for my children's and my own future.

Please cast your vote so that Florence Crittenton Home and other agencies like it can continue to help me and other young women succeed.